

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of the claims in this application:

1. (original) A nucleic acid molecule comprising a low homology packaging signal cassette flanked by a recombinase recognition sequence, wherein said packaging signal cassette comprises a modified adenovirus packaging signal, provided that said modified packaging signal has low homology to a wild-type adenovirus packaging signal.

2. (original) The nucleic acid of claim 1, wherein said recombinase recognition sequence is *loxP*.

3. (original) The nucleic acid of claim 1, wherein said recombinase recognition sequence is *frt*.

4. (previously presented) The nucleic acid of claim 1, wherein said modified packaging signal is less efficient than said wild-type packaging signal.

5. (original) The nucleic acid of claim 4, wherein said wild-type packaging signal is human adenovirus serotype 5 packaging signal.

6. (currently amended) The nucleic acid of claim[[s]] 5, wherein the modified packaging signal comprises at a maximum, 23 bp of contiguous sequence homology with said wild-type packaging signal.

7. (original) The nucleic acid of claim 5, wherein said modified packaging signal is about 2-3 times less efficient than said wild-type signal.

8. (currently amended) The nucleic acid of claim 6, wherein said modified packaging signal comprises two to six A elements, each A element having a consensus sequence of ATTTGN₈GC (SEQ ID NO: 1).

9. (original) The nucleic acid of claim 6, wherein said nucleic acid is a plasmid.

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10. (currently amended) The nucleic acid of claim 6, wherein said nucleic acid [[is]] comprises a helper virus.

11. (original) The nucleic acid of claim 10, wherein said helper virus does not contain an E1 gene.

12. (original) The nucleic acid of claim 11, wherein said helper virus comprises an E3 region with an insert of about 2.9 kb.

13. (original) The nucleic acid of claim 12, wherein said insert does not contain a promoter sequence.

14. (currently amended) A nucleic acid of claim 13 comprising an adenovirus E3 gene having an insertion of at least about 2.7 kb, provided that said insertion does not contain a promoter sequence.

15. (original) The nucleic acid of claim 14, wherein said insertion is a human intron sequence.

16 - 41. (canceled)
